LIBRARY

Wigan Rural District Council

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
LIBRARY

FOR THE YEAR 1951

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b30277358

Wigan Rural District Council

Chairman :
N. Gaskell, Esq., J.P.

Vice-Chairman :
J. K. Hodge, Esq.

Councillors :
I. Cropper, Esq.
J. H. Gill, Esq.
E. T. Hampson, Esq., J.P.
W. Hope, Esq.
J. Prescott, Esq.
W. Thompson, Esq.

Clerk :
Robert Gaskell, A.L.A.A.

Staff Public Health Department :
Medical Officer of Health :
G. H. Potter, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Engineer, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :
J. Holding.

Water Inspector :
W. R. Wright.

Bank Chambers,

Wallgate,

Wigan.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Wigan Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the Annual Report on the health of the District, compiled, as in previous years, in the abbreviated form indicated by the Ministry of Health.

I take this opportunity of tendering my best thanks to the Officials of the Council, the Staff of the Health Department, and especially to the Sanitary Inspector, for valuable help and co-operation at all times.

I desire also to express to the Members of the Council my appreciation of the courtesy and consideration they have always displayed towards me.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. H. POTTER.

August, 1952.

Wigan Rural District Council

1.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area : 11,696 acres.

Population (Census 1951)	8,213
Estimated mid-1951 (Registrar-General)	7,902
Total Number of Houses	~~2,384~~ 2,427
Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1951— according to Rate Book	2,412
Rateable Value	£43,708
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	£170

The Chief Industries of the Wigan Rural District are agriculture, sandstone quarrying, glue and linoleum manufacture and malt extract, bleaching and dyeing. Certain areas are purely residential.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	M	F.	Total.
Live Births (Legitimate)	54	61	115
(Illegitimate)	—	2	2
TOTAL	54	63	117
Still Births (Legitimate)	1	—	1
(Illegitimate)	—	—	—
TOTAL	1	—	1
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :			
(Legitimate)	3	—	3
(Illegitimate)	—	—	—
TOTAL	3	—	3
DEATHS			116

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population mid-1951	14.8
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	14.8

TABLE I.

	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality. Total		Infant Mortality. Neo-Natal	
	No. Regd.	Rate per 1,000 pop'n.	No. Regd.	Rate per 1,000 pop'n.	No. Regd.	Rate per 1,000 Total Births	No. of Deaths Regd.	Rate per 1,000 Total Births	No. of Deaths Regd.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	No. of Deaths Regd.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births
Year 1951	117	*14.8	116	*14.7	1	8	Nil.	Nil.	3	26	2	17
Year 1950	103	12.8	103	12.8	2	19	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
,, 1949	130	16.3	99	12.4	2	15	Nil.	Nil.	3	23	Nil.	Nil.
,, 1948	151	19.0	82	10.3	2	13	Nil.	Nil.	6	39	Nil.	Nil.
,, 1947	148	19.4	88	11.5	4	26	Nil.	Nil.	9	60	Nil.	Nil.
,, 1946	131	17.4	88	11.7	3	22	1	7.46	3	22	Nil.	Nil.
Avge. 5 yrs 1946-1950	—	16.9	—	11.8	—	19	—	1.48	—	32	—	Nil.

* Adjusted Live birth-rate (comparability factor, 1.00) — 14.8 per 1,000.
Death-rate (comparability factor, 1.01) — 14.8 per 1,000.

In the next Table are shown the chief causes of Death and number of Deaths from each cause in 1951, with comparative figures for 1950 :—

TABLE II.

Cause of Death.	No. of Deaths. 1951. M.	1951. F.	1950. M.	1950. F.
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	1	1	2	—
Tuberculosis—Other	1	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	1	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—
Cancer	7	6	9	5
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	—	—	—
Diabetes	—	1	—	—
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	8	5	5	6
Coronary Disease, Angina	11	3	8	2
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	—	1	1
Other Heart Disease	17	15	11	19
Other Circulatory Disease	—	1	—	—
Influenza	5	6	2	—
Pneumonia	1	1	3	1
Bronchitis	2	3	4	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	—	—	1	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	1	1	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	—	—	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	—	1	—
Pregnancy, Childbirth, abortion	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	—	1	—	—
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	7	1	4	4
Suicide and Other Violent Causes	5	—	8	1
	71	45	60	43

2.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Laboratory Arrangements.—Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Pathological Department of the Wigan Royal Infirmary and the Public Health Laboratory, Monsall, Manchester. The arrangements are satisfactory, a report being received on every examination.

One water bacteriological examination report was received from the Wigan Royal Infirmary during the year and one from the County Analyst, Preston.

3.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.—The Parishes obtain water supplies from the following sources :—

Dalton	Wrightington Borehole and Spring Water.	
Haigh	Blackrod U.D.C.	Upland
Worhtington	Standish U.D.C.	Surface
Shevington	Standish U.D.C.	Water.
Parbold	Own Supply Deep Well Water.	
Wrightington	Own Supply Deep Well Water and Spring Water.	
(Anderton's Mill)	Chorley R.D.C. Upland Surface Water.	

Anderton's Mill Water Extension.—During the year the most notable improvement has been the completion of the Anderton's Mill Water Extension Scheme. Water is obtained in bulk from Chorley Rural District Council and supplies 23 houses.

TABLE 3.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Parish.	Number of Dwelling houses	Supplied by Wigan R.D.C.	Supplied by Other Authorities.	No. of Houses without public water supply.
DALTON	143	108	9 (Up Holland)	26
WORTHINGTON	52	2	24 (Standish) 3 Chorley R.D.) 15 (Wigan C.B.)	8
HAIGH	228	212	15 (Aspull)	1
PARBOLD.....	307	294	—	13
SHEVINGTON	938	938	—	—
WRIGHTINGTON	765	707	9 (Hospital)	49
	2,433	2,261	75	97

Table showing Consumption by Trade and Domestic Users.

Parish	Estimated "Water" Population	Average Daily Consumption (in gallons)			Average Consumption per day per head of "Water" Population.		
		Domestic	Trade	Supplied to other Districts	Domestic	Trade	Total
Wrightington	2,500	40,264	25,504	Bispham3,681	16.25	10.20	26.45
Shevington	3,100	53,359	10,270	....	17.21	3.31	20.52
Parbold	950	16,876	3,654	....	17.76	3.84	21.60
Haigh	770	14,250	23,153	Aspull 20,986	18.50	30.06	48.56
Dalton	360	5,200	5,901	....	14.44	16.39	30.83
Total	7,680	130,309	68,482	....	16.96	8.92	25.88

Average Daily Total, Domestic and Trade 198,891

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION (At the end of 1951):—

Number of Privy Middens	260
Number of Closets attached to Privy Middens	409
Number of Pail Closets	557
Number of Freshwater Closets	1,690
Number of Dry Ashpits	25
Number of Movable Ashbins	1,814
Number of Houses on Water Carriage System	1,540

During the year 10 privy closets were converted to fresh w.c.s and 6 to pails; 2 pail closets were converted to fresh w.c.s. 16 movable ashbins were substituted for fixed receptacles.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Two refuse vehicles with 12 workmen are engaged on House Scavenging.

Pails are collected by the Council's Cesspool Emptying Vehicle.

CESSPOOOL CLEANSING.

A special Cesspool Emptying Vehicle is engaged on regular cleansing of cesspools and septic tanks. Tipping is carried out on agricultural land.

SEWERAGE.

During the year Part I of the Shevington Sewerage Scheme was almost completed but delay occurred because of the difficulties experienced in laying sewers beneath the Leeds and Liverpool Canal bed.

Part II of the Sewerage Scheme was commenced.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

Occasional Inspections under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934 and the Public Health Act, 1936 relating to the ventilation and temperature of shops and offices and to sanitary conveniences were carried out during the year.

CAMPING SITES.

There are two Camping Sites in the Rural District.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are none in the District.

DISINFESTATION OF VERMINOUS PREMISES.

Three houses were found to be infested and were dealt with by stoving and spraying with sulphur dioxide and gammexane.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The manufacture of glue is carried on in the Appley Bridge area under the constant supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are none in the district.

CANAL BOATS.

No infringements of Acts were discovered.

SCHOOLS.

The water supply to the Schools in the area is constant and sufficient and the facilities for handling meals are considered to be satisfactory.

HOUSING.

General Housing Conditions.—There is still a long list of urgent housing applications, particularly in Shevington. During the year the Council's Housing programme has been accelerated by the completion of 30 houses and 4 flats in Shevington and the commencement of 12 houses in Haigh.

Site preparation works were completed on the Shevington site and development of the site will proceed rapidly.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

Traditional permanent houses :—

(i)	By the Local Authority	30
(ii)	By other Local Authorities	—
(iii)	By other bodies and persons	10

1.—INSPECTION of dwelling-houses during the year :

(i)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	64
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	77
(ii)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (i) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932)	4
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	6

(iii) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 3

(iv) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 34

2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS during the year without service of Formal Notices :

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 7

3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS during the year :

A—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs..... 2

(ii) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :

(a) by owners 2

(b) by Local Authority in default of owners .... —

B—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 24

(ii) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :

(a) by owners 20

(b) by Local Authority in default of owners .... —

C—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ..... —

(ii) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ..... —

D—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(i)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
(ii)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—

4.—HOUSING ACT, 1936—PART IV—Overcrowding:—

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year approximately	(*est.* 35
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein approx.	70
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein approx.	180
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	5
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	10
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	22

5.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.—An adequate supply of milk is produced within or brought into the district.

(b) MEAT.—There is no slaughtering in the district other than the slaughter of pigs under Ministry of Food Licence. Occasionally pigs killed privately are inspected.

There are two registered slaughter-houses with shops attached. Periodic inspections are made and any unsound meat rejected.

6.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During 1951 cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment were removed to Whelley Hospital.

11 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, as against 8 in 1950, 5 cases being removed to hospital for treatment.

83 cases of measles of a mild type, 32 cases of Whooping Cough and 12 cases of Pneumonia were notified during the year.

I am pleased to report that there was no outbreak of Food Poisoning in the district during the year.

Free immunisation against Diphtheria is provided for any pre-school or school-child and is performed at the Clinic by the Assistant Divisional Medical Officers or by the General Practitioners in their Surgeries. During 1951 110 pre-school and 31 school-children completed a full course of primary immunisation with two injections of Alum Precipitated Toxoid. In addition, 98 children were given a secondary or reinforcing injection.

No preliminary and no post-Schick tests were undertaken.

The general standard of cleanliness and habits in the district remains high, and cases of infestation by lice dealt with at the Clinic were few, and were successfully treated with D.D.T. Emulsion.

TABLE 4.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1951.

Disease	Total Ages	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2–	3–	4–	5–	10–	15–	20–	35–	45–	Over 65–	Removed to Hospital	Total Deaths Hospital	Total Deaths
Measles	83	3	4	13	13	13	33	3		1						
Whooping Cough	32	3	3	1	5	5	12	2		1						1
Pneumonia	12	1						1				4	6			2
Scarlet Fever	11				1	2	8							5		
Erysipelas	2											2				
TOTALS	140	7	7	14	19	20	53	6		2		6	6	5		3

Distribution over the several Parishes was as follows:

	Cases.	Total No. of Cases.
Dalton:		
Whooping Cough	5	
Measles	2	
		7
Haigh:		
Pneumonia	5	
Measles	4	
Whooping Cough	1	
		10
Parbold:		
Measles	8	
Scarlet Fever	1	
		9
Shevington:		
Measles	32	
Whooping Cough	8	
Pneumonia	5	
Scarlet Fever	3	
Erysipelas	2	
		50
Worthington:		
Measles	5	
		5
Wrightington:		
Measles	32	
Whooping Cough	18	
Scarlet Fever	7	
Pneumonia	2	
		59
		140

CANCER.

13 Deaths, 7 Males and 6 Females, occurred in 1951 compared with 14 Deaths, 9 Males and 5 Females in 1950.

Cancer cases are treated at the Manchester Radium Institute and at the Wigan Infirmary Clinic, which works in close conjunction with the Manchester Unit.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No local action has been taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness, or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

The administration of the Blind Persons Act, 1920 is undertaken in this area by the staff of the County Medical Officer of Health.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The notifications received during the year under the Public Health (T.B.) Regulations, 1930, were as follows :—

New Cases and Mortality During 1951 :

	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
Age Periods	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
55	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
65-over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Not known	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	3	4	2	1	1	1	—

Notification of the Disease is prompt and satisfactory. The Manchester Regional Hospital Board provides facilities for the treatment of Tuberculosis, and these services are fully used and appreciated. The Chest Clinic is in Millgate, Wigan, and patients may be referred there for examination by their own doctor, or by the Assistant County Medical Officer.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948—SECTION 47:

No cases were dealt with during the year under Sub-Section 3 of this Act.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

Part I of the Act.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors):—

Premises (1)	M/c. line No. (2)	No. on Register (3)	No. of Inspections (4)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	20	22
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	10	4
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority *(excluding out-workers' premises)	3	4	2
Total		34	28

*Electrical Stations (Section 103 (1)), Institutions (Section 104) and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND:—

One case of want of cleanliness was found and remedied.

Two cases of insufficient and one defective sanitary conveniences were found and remedied. (S.7).

Part VIII of the Act.
OUTWORK.
(Sections 110 and 111).

The number of out-workers in the August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c) was 3 Basket-makers, 3 Wearing Apparel-makers and 3 Stuffed toy-makers.

G. H. POTTER,

Medical Officer of Health.